

GERMANS DIG NEW TRENCHES TO HOLD BACK CZAR IN POLAND

bombarding at St. Georges, in the Alsace region, and on the heights of the Meuse. The text of the communication follows:

"In Belgium we have won a little territory in the region of Nieport, opposite Rolders, and to the north of Lombartzyde. The enemy subjected St. Georges to a violent bombardment. This is the position we are putting in a state of defense.

"We have captured a German point of support located to the southeast of Zonnebeke, on the road between Beeleere and Paschebaeic. From the Lys to the Oise there is nothing to report.

"In the valley of the Alsace and in Champagne the enemy has manifested another burst of activity which has taken the form particularly of a violent artillery fire, to which our heavy artillery has replied effectively.

"In the Argonne we have made slight progress in the region of Four de Paris.

"Between the Argonne and the Moselle there has been cannonading all along the front, but particularly severe along the heights of the Meuse.

"In the Vosges the enemy delivered an attack against our positions at La Tete de Fauz, this was repulsed.

"In Upper Alsace we are consolidating our positions. Our heavy artillery reduced to silence the German howitzers which were bombarding Upper Aspach."

Austria Admits Check in Galicia, But Denies Russian Story of Rout

VIENNA, Dec. 30 (United Press).—Emphatic denial that the Austrian armies have been completely routed featured the official War Office statement issued today. It is admitted that the armies have been forced to withdraw, but this action, the statement says, was due to the throwing of enormous reinforcements into the main army which has been contesting Southern Galicia in company with the Hungarian army which crossed the Carpathians.

So far as the Hungarian army is concerned, the official reports say, it has been withdrawn in good order, bringing back the entire artillery and transport. The losses have been heavy, but not out of proportion to the men engaged. The chief cause for regret, it is stated, is that the movement to relieve Przemyel has been abandoned.

In the northern section the Austrian lines are intact, the War Office declares. There has been a withdrawal at a number of points to straighten out the battle line, but at no point has there been any general retreat. The Austrians continue to hold the main line of trenches on the Sannik-Borlice-Jabliska front.

It is denied here that the Russians have resumed their movement against Cracow.

In the Balkans, the official statements say, there has been renewed activity, especially on the part of the Montenegrins. They have repeatedly attacked Trebinje but in every instance have been repulsed with heavy losses. The Montenegrins are still bombarding the Austrian positions at Krivostje but with little real result.

Czar's Big Army in Poland Starts New Drive, Say Russians

PETROGRAD, Dec. 30 (United Press).—Renewed successes in the Caucasus in the Oltink region and important movements in Warsaw, which presage the driving back of the Austro-German forces beyond the frontier, are reported here today.

The fighting in the Caucasus has resulted in the Russian occupancy of Mordensk, near Sarykanyah, where the Turkish trenches were carried after a series of bayonet charges in which the defending forces lost very heavily.

The Turks are declared to be committing outrages against the native population of the villages in the territory through which they have moved, to have massacred thousands of men and women and outraged and tortured all young girls.

The reports from the Austrian front declare the Austrian armies which were operating in Southern Galicia have been completely routed. Their flight was so precipitate, the report says, that they abandoned large quantities of camp equipment, supplies and some cannons. The Russians have cut off a large number of troops, and their capture is believed certain.

To the west the Russian forward movement is again in full swing despite the fact that the roads and fields are again almost impassable owing to the sudden thaw. The movement against Cracow is being resumed and further unsuccessful sorties of the Przemysl garrison are reported.

In the territory to the west of Warsaw, where the Germans have been operating, the fighting is chiefly in the nature of artillery duels at long range. The Germans have retired to the left bank of the Buzza where they are re-trenching.

Berlin Now Admits the Loss of Town of St. Georges in Belgium

BERLIN, by wireless to London, Dec. 30 (Associated Press).—The official communication given out today by the German War Office says:

"In the western theatre of war we still are fighting for the hamlet of St. Georges, to the southeast of Nieport, which we were compelled to evacuate owing to the surprise attack.

"Storm and cold have caused damage to the positions of both sides in Flanders and in Northern France."

"Constantinople reports another Turkish success on the River Kura in the Caucasus. The Turks took many prisoners, several guns and other war material."

RUSSIA NOT SEEKING PEACE INDEPENDENT OF ALLIED POWERS.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 30.—Mr. Balthusmetoff, the Russian Ambassador, today denied the statement that Russia proposes negotiations for peace with Germany independent of France and England.

The Russian Ambassador also cabled to the Foreign Office at Petrograd and has received the following message from the Russian Minister of Foreign Affairs:

"Certainly please deny absolutely the absurd statement."

50,000 PRISONERS NEED HELP IN SIBERIA, IS REPORT TO RED CROSS.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 30.—Reports that more than 50,000 German and Austrian prisoners of war in Siberia are in dire need reached the Red Cross today.

The American Minister at Peking, China, was called \$3,000 for purchase of necessities of immediate relief.

FORGERY CHARGE STOPS THEIR HONEYMOON TRIP

Engineer Drew Gun and Threatened Detectives Who Made the Arrest.

Arrested for forgery at the outset of a honeymoon trip to South America, George Stone, a Boston mining engineer, was held in the West Side Court today in \$5,000 bail, which also covered a charge for carrying a revolver. His wife of three days, whom he met and courted on a recent trip from England and married Christmas Eve, fainted in the court room when the charge against her husband was explained to her. She said she would stick by him until she was convinced he was a real thief, and spend what money she had, about \$200, to clear him.

The prisoner, under the name of Harry Stone, introduced himself to Theodore Bauer, manager of the Hotel Marlborough, as a mutual friend of E. J. McLisack, associate editor of the Boston American. Later he presented a check for \$200 signed by McLisack and asked for cash. Though the Boston man's name was engraved on the check, Bauer gave him \$200 and telephoned to Boston. He learned that McLisack had given Stone a small check, but that several blank checks were missing from his office checkbook. Detectives were sent to the Hotel Cecil in Harlem and arrested Stone as he was about to leave with his wife. He threatened to resist arrest with a revolver. The police say he served a sentence here for forgery in 1907.

GERMANS REFUTE STORY OF ATROCITY RELATED BY GIRLS

Dresden Local Verein Deny Indignities Heaped On American Women.

VEREIN DER FORDERENDEN DEUTSCHEN FÜR DIE FÜR SIBIRIEN IN DRESDEN, DEZ. 30, 1914.

A clipping from your issue of Oct. 3 shows in heavy print under the heading, "Saw American Woman Stripped Naked by Mob," a series of alleged outrages committed in this town.

Miss Mueller and Miss Ericson in an interview state they themselves were "twice mobbed as Russian spies; that they 'saw' with their own eyes 'two American women stripped naked by the mob, marched through our streets at the point of bayonets.' You tell your readers that these two girls informed you that 'Dresden was overrun with Russian spies' and that they were present and 'saw' one spy 'drowned in the River Elbe' and his mate shot later on.

These girls further state that "German officials" told them that "150 Russians were shot in this town during the first two weeks of this war." Not content, they go on telling your readers that in making these charges from 'saw' they were over and over again "arrested" and were "eye witnesses" to more murder and atrocious treatment of travellers.

Thousands must have read your statements and "cursed" our town and its inhabitants.

Your own Consul General suggested that we should make a careful inquiry in this matter.

We have done so and now give you the result:

The local police certify that Lillian Mueller and Alma Ericson, both said to be about twenty-five years of age, arrived here as voluntary travellers and sightseers on Aug. 5 and stayed at the boarding establishment of Miss Blancke, Luettichstrasse No. 24, until Aug. 14, when they left by railroad for Italy, equipped with proper passports issued and granted by the local U. S. A. Consulate.

No complaints were ever made by the police against the two persons; neither were any complaints lodged by them against any one here. The police authorities have now asked the proprietress of the boarding house to give full evidence in order to throw more light upon the subject.

Miss Blancke informed the authorities: Both young ladies came from a school in Cairo, Egypt, where they had been employed as teachers. They behaved well and were very friendly and confiding. Miss Blancke emphatically states that both girls spoke with great fervor about the Germans, lauding up the military and officials in many instances and never made a single complaint of any kind. They were never mobbed or molested or taken for spies by either the public or the police. Miss Blancke herself went with them to the railway station and saw them off.

There was not the slightest sign of "mobsing," and they parted with heartfelt wishes on both sides. The authorities further state and wish it to be known that not a single spy has been shot or any Russian drowned in Dresden since this war began.

Miss Blancke has volunteered to write to the two young ladies and ask for an explanation, but we think it is only fair to inform you first and our authorities emphatically declare that there is not one iota of truth in any of the statements made about this case. No American woman has ever been mobbed or insulted, leave alone "stripped naked" in the streets. Even the subjects of those nations who are at war with us cannot bring such foul charges against Germany, as all have acknowledged the good and fair treatment received, a far less different treatment to that meted out to our poor countrymen in the enemies' hands.

We have you to deal with the "ladies" said to be "teachers" who "informed" you, but we must ask you to publish this letter, fully and un-bridled, in one of your next issues, in just as prominent a place and the same prominent type in which you allowed the "inventions" to appear in your paper of Oct. 3, 1914.

Trusting you will see the fairness of our request, we shall be obliged to receive a copy of the issue of your paper containing this letter, and remain, yours very truly,

VEREIN DER FORDERENDEN DEUTSCHEN FÜR DIE FÜR SIBIRIEN IN DRESDEN UND DES ERHM. VEREINERH. 8 SCHLEIERMANN, Chairman.

WOUNDED FRENCH NEAR BATTLE FRONT



A FRENCH WOMAN CARING FOR WOUNDED AT A HOSPITAL NEAR THE FRONT. (UNITED PRESS SERVICE)

BAFF INQUIRY COLLAPSES AS THE WITNESSES FLEE

(Continued from First Page.)

to find evidence that this knowledge goes so far as to give a presumption of the complicity of the recalcitrant witnesses in the murder plot, a legal way can be found to bring them into the jurisdiction of the court and this step will be taken.

The three witnesses are being kept under surveillance and cannot move far without the New York District Attorney being advised of it.

In his talk with reporters Whitman intimated that legal steps might be taken against the legal advisers who were responsible for the absence of the three witnesses.

As in the case of the accused police inspectors, when one of them was indicted for causing the disappearance of George Sipp, the Harlem hotel keeper, who was wanted as a witness, it is possible that those now responsible for keeping the wanted witnesses under cover may feel legal pressure.

Just who the three stubborn witnesses are could not be learned from Whitman or his aides. It was generally understood at the Criminal Courts Building, however, that two of them at least were live poultry dealers in the West Washington Market, who were in attendance upon the Harlem conference held three nights before the murder, details of which were told exclusively in late editions of The Evening World last night. The third is believed to be the chauffeur of the "murder car."

The only witnesses to go before the Grand Jury today were Carl Rettich, the West Hoboken saloon-keeper, and his father, Emil. Both of them have been before the Grand Jury before on several occasions.

Whether today's impasse will mean the temporary discontinuance of the Hart investigation or whether Assistant District Attorneys DeLahunty, Deuel and Murphy will continue the taking of testimony before the Grand Jury to-morrow could not be determined.

It is certain that any delay will result in a vigorous attempt on the part of the witnesses now held in the House of Detention or in the Tombs to get out.

WALL STREET.

Market Closing.—There was no relief from the dullness in the early afternoon. In the last hour there was a little increase of activity enough to rescue the market from utter stagnation, the buying demand was better and prices showed an improvement. Western Maryland issues sold off on announcement that the payment of the January interest on the notes would be deferred.

THE CLOSING QUOTATIONS.

Stock	High	Low	Close	Net
Alcoa	114	113	113 1/2	1/2
Am. Sugar	101	100	100 1/2	1/2
Am. Tobacco	118	117	117 1/2	1/2
Am. Cotton	25	24	24 1/2	1/2
Am. Oil	10	9	9 1/2	1/2
Am. Paper	10	9	9 1/2	1/2
Am. Rubber	10	9	9 1/2	1/2
Am. Steel	10	9	9 1/2	1/2
Am. Textile	10	9	9 1/2	1/2
Am. Lumber	10	9	9 1/2	1/2
Am. Glass	10	9	9 1/2	1/2
Am. Brick	10	9	9 1/2	1/2
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Am. Iron	10	9	9 1/2	1/2
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